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Received on:

FEB- 8 2013



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February 6, 2013

Housing Policy Division  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
1800 3rd Street  
P.O. Box 952053  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2053

RE: General Plan Annual Report

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed herewith, please find a copy of the City of Norwalk's General Plan Annual Report as required by Government Code Section 65400(b).

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 929-5775.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Planning Division



Bing H. Hyun,  
Planning Manager

Attachment



**CITY OF NORWALK**  
**2012 GENERAL PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT**  
**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**PLANNING DIVISION**

**February 5, 2013**



## **INTRODUCTION**

On February 29, 1996, the Norwalk City Council adopted the City's current General Plan for implementation. The General Plan contains ten (10) elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, Safety, Community Design, Educational and Cultural Resources, and Utility Infrastructure. Of these elements, Community Design, Educational and Cultural Resources and Utility Infrastructure are the three new elements that were added to the General Plan as part of the 1996 comprehensive General Plan update.

The Norwalk City Council adopted a revised Housing Element on July 17, 2001 to adequately address issues related to current and future housing opportunities and to meet the requirements of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

As required by Government Code Section 65400(b), every city must submit an annual progress report to their legislative body, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the implementation status of their General Plan. The annual report must also include discussion on the City's progress in providing its required share of affordable housing pursuant to Government Code Section 65584 and its efforts to remove governmental constraints for the maintenance, improvement and development of affordable housing per Section 65583(c)(3) of the California Government Code.

This General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report covers the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

### **STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

In the 2012 calendar year, through the direction of the City Council, the City initiated efforts to develop a strategic action plan which will further implement the goals set forth in the General Plan. The strategic action plan will specifically address public safety, fiscal management, economic development, customer service, personnel, and infrastructure. The strategic action plan is anticipated to be completed in the 2013 calendar year.

The following discusses the collaborative efforts administered by various City Departments which contribute to the implementation progress of each of the ten (10) elements contained in the General Plan, including:

- Land Use,
- Circulation,
- Housing,
- Conservation,
- Open Space,
- Noise,
- Safety,
- Community Design,
- Educational and Cultural Resources, and
- Utility Infrastructure.

### **Land Use Element**

The City of Norwalk is considered a developed community comprised mostly of single-family residential neighborhoods, with its predominant commercial and industrial land uses situated along several major roadways. As a developed community, any future development in the city would occur as infill or redevelopment.

In February 1996, an updated Land Use Element was adopted as part of the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Since adoption of the 1996 General Plan, the City has processed a variety of new land use developments and adopted new land use regulations that have continually upheld the Land Use Element.

### **Circulation Element**

The Circulation Element of the 1996 General Plan defines the transportation needs of the City and presents a comprehensive transportation plan to accommodate those needs. The element also focuses on identifying and evaluating local circulation needs, while balancing those needs with regional demands and mandates. The following outlines the City's efforts in addressing local circulation, regional circulation and public transportation needs in the Norwalk community:

#### **Local Circulation**

The City has continued to make a variety of street and traffic improvements to its existing network of public streets and sidewalks (e.g., street resurfacing, sidewalk repair, American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) compliance, traffic signal modifications, etc.).

These street and traffic improvements are identified as Capital Improvement Projects in which federal, state and local funding sources are utilized to execute the projects.

The City worked on the following Capital Improvement Projects to enhance local streets and sidewalks in the 2012 calendar year:

- Began design work to replace the Firestone Bridge over the San Gabriel River;
- Completed construction to conduct curb and gutter repairs by applying a cape seal treatment or a pavement overlay to deteriorated streets, repairing gutters to restore proper street drainage and installing curb access corner ramps to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements within the neighborhoods bounded by Imperial Highway, Norwalk Boulevard, I-5 freeway, Rosecrans Avenue, and Pioneer Boulevard;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on Alondra Boulevard between Pioneer Boulevard and Shoemaker Avenue;
- Began construction to conduct street repair work on Pioneer Boulevard between Lakeland Avenue and Imperial Highway;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on Rosecrans Avenue between Bloomfield Avenue and Camenita Road;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on Norwalk Boulevard/San Antonio Drive between Florence Avenue and Rosecrans Avenue;
- Continued work to upgrade computer systems that control traffic signals throughout the City;
- Completed the design work for traffic signal modifications at the intersections of San Antonio Drive and Foster Road, and Bloomfield Avenue and Civic Center Drive;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on Hoxie Avenue between Firestone Boulevard and Imperial Highway;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on an alleyway located south of Excelsior Drive and east of Brink Avenue;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on within the neighborhood bounded by Firestone Boulevard, Studebaker Road, Cecilia Street and Dumont Avenue;
- Completed design work to conduct street repair work on Excelsior Avenue in front of Glazier Elementary School; and
- Continued construction work to repair/replace damaged sidewalks throughout the City.

In anticipation of an increase of vehicles in Norwalk's local streets due to detoured and diverted traffic as a result of the 1-5 freeway widening construction, the City took a lead role in Phase One and Phase Two of the 1-5 mitigation projects that commenced or were completed in 2012. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) provided more than \$6.6 million to the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority (I-5 JPA), via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund the design and construction of these I-5 Pre-Construction Mitigation Projects.

Phase One I-5 Mitigation Projects involved the construction of several street, median and traffic signal improvements in advance of the I-5 mainline widening in the Carmenita Road area including the following:

- Rehabilitation of Shoemaker Avenue, between Alondra Boulevard and Firestone Boulevard;
- Rehabilitation of Excelsior Drive, between Shoemaker Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue;
- Rehabilitation of Bloomfield Avenue, between Excelsior Drive and Rosecrans Avenue;
- Rehabilitation of Carmenita Road, between Alondra Boulevard and I-5;
- Rehabilitation of Alondra Boulevard, between Carmenita Road and Shoemaker Avenue;
- Rehabilitation of Firestone Boulevard, between Shoemaker Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue;
- Modify medians and signals at the intersection of Alondra Boulevard and Carmenita Road;
- Modify medians and signals at the intersection of Alondra Boulevard and Shoemaker Avenue; and
- Modify medians and signals at the intersection of Alondra Boulevard and Marquardt Avenue.

Phase Two I-5 Mitigation Projects involved resurfacing local streets in anticipation of the increased traffic demand that will occur during the I-5 widening construction work. The repaving project was conducted to rehabilitate a couple of collector streets by grinding off the top pavement surface, strengthening the underlying layers of asphalt, rock and soil where needed and restoring the top surface, on the following streets:

- Paddison Avenue, between Firestone Boulevard and Union Street; and
- Union Street, between Paddison Avenue and San Antonio Drive.

Other street improvements (e.g., street dedications, street widening, sidewalk construction, deceleration lanes, etc.) are funded and built by developers as part of their conditions of approval for developing their property. In addition, developers are responsible for paying their "fair share" of the cost to mitigate anticipated traffic impacts associated with new development in the City.

Additionally, developers are often required to conduct traffic studies to establish uses which have higher parking demands or larger development projects which may create traffic impacts on the existing network of public streets. These traffic studies are required to ensure that new uses and developments will not have negative traffic impacts.

#### Regional Circulation

The City of Norwalk currently participates in local and regional transportation planning and decision-making by implementing and conforming to the guidelines of the Los



Angeles County Congestion Management Plan and the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

I-5 Freeway Widening: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7, continued to construct improvements along the I-5 Freeway, which runs north to south through the entire length of the City, during the 2012 calendar year. According to Caltrans, the improvements listed below are part of the planned improvements and will enhance safety, improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, encourage ridesharing, decrease surface street traffic and improve air quality:

- High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) Lanes – Carpool lanes for vehicles with two or more passengers
- Direct HOV Connectors – Carpool lane connections so motorists can travel from one freeway directly to another without leaving the HOV lane
- Interchange Improvements – Upgraded on- and off-ramps, bridge widening and/or bridge reconstruction
- Truck Lanes – New lanes designated for truck traffic
- Pavement Replacement – Extends roadway life, reduces maintenance costs and closures, provides a smoother ride for motorists
- Grade Separation – Bridge used to separate levels at which cars, trains, and/or pedestrians cross
- Pedestrian Overcrossing – Bridge for pedestrians to cross over freeway

Most of these improvements are funded through a combination of federal, state and local resources. Additionally, several projects have been partially funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The City continued to actively work with Caltrans in the 2012 calendar year to minimize the impacts of this project on surrounding neighborhoods in Norwalk by attending construction field meetings and conducting on-site inspections of the construction in progress for the phased I-5 widening project including the following segments:

- Carmenita Interchange Segment at Carmenita Road and the I-5 freeway; and
- Segment 3 of the I-5 freeway between Shoemaker Avenue and Silverbow Avenue.

Staff was involved in the design stage of the construction work for Segment 5 of the I-5 freeway between Orr and Day Road and the 605 freeway, during the 2012 calendar year. Additionally, the City continued to work with existing residents and businesses which were affected by the I-5 freeway widening.

High Speed Rail Project: The City continued to participate in a number of meetings with the California High Speed Rail Authority to address issues related to the construction of the high-speed rail and to ensure the most benefit to the Norwalk community with the least amount of negative impacts. The City has expressed strong reservations regarding the proposed high-speed rail project that will extend between Union Station and

Anaheim. Together with the City of Santa Fe Springs, the Cities have consistently withheld support pending resolution of several issues including the continued operation and viability of the existing Metrolink Station, the provision of adequate parking, and the mitigation of traffic impacts.

The Los Angeles to Anaheim segment, which consists of 29-miles of the 800-mile system, is currently in Phase 3 of the 8-phase implementation plan. Phase 3 involves the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to identify and mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

#### Public Transportation

In addition to conducting street and circulation improvements, the City also provides a local transit operator for the community through the Norwalk Transit System (NTS), which was established in 1974 and is one of sixteen (16) municipal bus operators within the County of Los Angeles operating fixed-route and paratransit service.

**Fixed-Route Service:** The NTS fixed-route service provides local circulation and trunk service within Norwalk and adjoining communities, including Santa Fe Springs, Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier and portions of unincorporated LA County. The NTS fixed-route service also provides connecting bus service between the Metro Rail Green Line Station and the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center (Metrolink Station) for commuters utilizing other modes of public transportation. Over 2.2 million passengers per year are served through the NTS fixed-route service.

The NTS has continued to incrementally replace fixed route buses as new technology emerges. The newest additions to NTS's fleet include six (6) Flyer 41-foot low floor hybrid gasoline electric buses, which began operation in July 2009, and three (3) 36-foot low floor hybrid gasoline electric buses, which began operation in July 2010. These buses were acquired through the NTS's participation in the FTA Cooperative Procurement Pilot Program (CPPP) which involved a joint procurement effort to acquire hybrid gasoline electric buses. The CPPP, which included the City of Montebello Bus Lines (MBL), as the lead agency, was established to develop, refine, and prove innovative procurement practices that provide significant cost benefits to the public transit industry.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requires all NTS future bus acquisitions to be fueled with an alternative form of fuel. Currently, NTS is working on replacing fourteen (14) diesel fueled buses with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses. The NTS is changing its fuel path from gasoline hybrids to CNG due to discontinued manufacturing of gasoline hybrid drive buses. The NTS fueling facilities and maintenance building infrastructure upgrades will be necessary to support new CNG buses. The following briefly outlines advantages to CNG buses:

1. CNG buses emit virtually no visible particulate matters or black soot at the tailpipe in comparison to diesel;
2. There is a reduction in oxides of nitrogen (NOx) with buses running on CNG rather than diesel;

3. Natural gas has inherently lower carbon dioxide emissions compared to diesel;
4. There is no evidence that CNG buses pose any greater risk of fire or explosion than diesel buses. Natural gas buses have on-board gas detectors and other safety equipment specially designed to ensure safe operation;
5. Natural gas vapors are odorless and nontoxic to breathe. The familiar natural gas smell is actually an odorant that is added to the gas as a safety feature;
6. The technology for making CNG tanks is well known and mature; and
7. Currently, the CNG bus base cost is approximately 10-16% less than the Gasoline Hybrid Electric.

Dial-a-Ride Program: The NTS also continues to provide a high quality and efficient paratransit service, called Advance Reservation Dial-A-Ride (DAR), for Norwalk's senior and disabled residents within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Norwalk, which has continued to operate as of July 12, 2010. The NTS also contracts with Fiesta Taxi for late evening weekday supplemental taxi voucher service and daytime weekday inter-jurisdictional taxi voucher service for medical trips to eligible Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs residents and Whittier residents, which is available 7 days a week.

In keeping with its commitment to provide economically viable public transportation in a safe and effective manner, the Norwalk Transit System is continuing to evaluate its paratransit services to enhance productivity and customer satisfaction. This includes development of recommendations for future service expansion and/or restructuring of existing services that takes into account the following: residential and socio-economic growth in the service area, and existing travel patterns of riders and non-riders to explore the best possible approach to enhancing the use of public transportation by consolidating portions of paratransit services into community fixed route service. Overall, the ongoing internal performance evaluation process will ensure that the Norwalk Transit System continues to improve its service to meet both current and future needs of the community within the constraints of available funding from local, state and federal sources.

The City has continually expanded the functions and services it provides through the Transportation Department, as a municipal transit agency. The design or construction for the following Capital Improvement Projects involving transportation facilities were completed in the 2012 calendar year:

- Replaced a total of seventeen (17) bus stop shelters throughout the City;
- Completed design work for interior improvements proposed to be made to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Transportation Center Building;
- Began design work to replace lighting at the mechanics bay at the Transportation Center; and
- Completed design work for pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the Metrolink Station.

### **Housing Element**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is responsible for providing the Regional Housing Need Assessment Determination (RHNA

Determination) for an 8-year planning period for each region within the State, based on the Census information. The RHNA Determination quantifies the need for housing by income group within each region during the specific planning period. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the metropolitan planning organization that serves the City of Norwalk and represents six-counties in the Southern California region. SCAG is responsible for the distribution of each city's share of the RHNA Determination, which must be addressed in updates to the housing element.

The City is in the process of revising its Housing Element to meet current State Housing Element Laws and address the housing units which were allocated to the City for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> RHNA cycles. At a study session on September 12, 2012, staff provided the Planning Commission background regarding the Housing Element update and discussed optional strategies for meeting State mandated affordable housing requirements. On January 9, 2013, the Planning Commission and staff continued its discussion regarding the Housing Element update and site suitability requirements for potential sites for rezoning to meet the City's lower income housing units allocation. At that study session, the Planning Commission directed staff to provide specific site information for potential sites to be re-zoned to allow high density multi-family residential developments in the following types of categories: churches, schools, commercial, industrial and government sites.

Both the Planning Commission and City Council will to determine the best housing strategy for adequately addressing the City's share of existing and projected population growth, taking into consideration affordability of available and future housing. Prior to adoption of a housing element update, the City plans to submit the draft housing element update to HCD for review and comments. HCD will certify a city's housing element if it is found to be in substantial compliance with the State Housing Element Law.

The table below identifies the specific numbers of housing units, by household income groups, that were allocated to the City for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> RHNA cycles:

<b>4<sup>th</sup> RHNA CYCLE (01/01/06-06/30/14)</b>		
<b>INCOME GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Extremely Low	31	10.4%
Very Low	44	14.8%
Low	46	15.5%
Moderate	50	16.8%
Above Moderate	126	42.5%
Total:	297	100.0%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> RHNA CYCLE (01/01/14 – 10/30/21)</b>		
<b>INCOME GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Very Low	52	25.9%
Low	31	15.4%
Moderate	33	16.4%
Above Moderate	85	42.3%
Total:	201	100.0%

The household income groups are categorized as Extremely Low (less than 30 percent of Los Angeles County's median income), Very Low (30-50 percent of L.A. County's median income), Low (50-80 percent of L.A. County's median income), Moderate (80-120 percent of L.A. County's median income), and Above Moderate (greater than 120 percent of L.A. County's median income).

According to Building and Safety Division records, four (4) building permits were issued for new single –family residential units. Using the forms and definitions, as adopted by HCD on March 27, 2010, information regarding Norwalk's progress in addressing the regional housing need allocation has been included in Tables "A", "A2", "A3", "B" and "C" contained in Attachment 1.

#### Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City's efforts in addressing housing needs during the 2012 calendar year included using Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to continue work to rehabilitate a residence at 15416 Clarkdale Avenue, which was acquired using NSP funds. The work on this property is anticipated to be completed in the 2013 calendar year and will be subsequently sold to a Norwalk resident. This property was foreclosed upon and was acquired by the City to be rehabilitated and sold to low to moderate-income Norwalk residents. The City recognized that most low to moderate-income buyers may not be able to afford the sale price of the homes. Therefore, the City will fund the gap between the mortgage the family does qualify for and the sale price of the home.

#### Norwalk Housing Authority

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), a separate legal entity established in 1976, assists lower income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices. The Housing Authority administers an ongoing Housing Voucher Program. During calendar year 2012, the NHA issued approximately fifty-three (53) vouchers to new applicants from a waiting list and an average of seven-hundred, seven (707) households were assisted with their rent per month.

#### Community Development Block Grant

The federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, administered by the Community Development CDBG Division, has the responsibility of administering a wide range of programs whose objective is to provide housing in a sound environment, principally for low and moderate-income households. The focus of CDBG activities are to provide financial assistance in the form of low cost home improvement programs, provide essential public services, stimulate the revitalization of older declining neighborhoods and monitor the modernization of essential infrastructure in neighborhoods with a high concentration of low/moderate income residents.

For the 2012 calendar year, CDBG funds have rehabilitated fifty-three (53) properties as of December 31, 2012 to benefit low and moderate-income households in order to prevent or eliminate slums or blight within the community. In addition, CDBG funds have been previously allocated to support housing services to several non-profit organizations that provide shelter for abused, homeless or disadvantaged women and children.

#### Home Investment Partnership

The Home Investment Partnership (HOME), administered by the Community Development CDBG Division, also provides a variety of resources to assist elderly, low-income residents, in addition to the City's special needs population. For the 2012 calendar year, the HOME Repair Program has assisted twenty-two (22) low-income residents as of December 31, 2012 by providing needed residential repairs in addition to necessary handicap accessibility improvements.

#### Conservation Element

The Conservation Element of the Norwalk General Plan is intended to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources (e.g., water, minerals, energy sources etc.). Since the City of Norwalk is a completely urbanized community, there are limited natural resources that can be conserved and/or developed. However, conservation of existing resources from contamination and providing adequate mitigation measures to ensure that new development does not adversely impact the existing environment is being routinely achieved. The following is a discussion of different City conservation efforts as they relate to water conservancy and recycling programs:

#### Water

In the on-going effort to improve water quality and eliminate pollutant discharges into municipal storm drains and underground aquifers, the Engineering Division is currently

responsible for City compliance with the federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). As part of this program, the Engineering Division submits the NPDES Permit Annual Report and the San Gabriel Watershed Assessment Report to the County, which is due in September of each calendar year to demonstrate compliance.

The City has also led efforts to initiate an inter-agency Committee to look at the Coyote Creek and Lower San Gabriel River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) with assistance from the Gateway Authority.

The City has taken measures to ensure water reliance and conservation. One measure that was taken in the 2012 calendar year was the completion of a Capital Improvement Project involving a water well at Norwalk Park, in which a new pump and transmission mains were installed to connect the water supply to a water distribution system. This upgrade was necessary to ensure adequate water supply for Norwalk residents.

Program activities to ensure the conservation of natural resources include interagency coordination with local and regional agencies, annual inspection and monitoring of the open channels and the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) for public construction projects.

In response to the stabilized water deliveries and increased rainfall levels as reported by the State Department of Water Resources, the City temporarily lifted its mandatory water conservation measures that were originally passed in 2009. The City, however, does reserve the right to reinstate water use restrictions in the future should drought conditions occur. Regulations relating to stormwater prevention and washing vehicles are still in effect and conservation practices are still encouraged.

The City continues to work in collaboration with water purveyors that service Norwalk residents, such as Park Water and Golden State Water companies to promote water conservation. In the past, they have set up informational booths and distributed conservation items such as low-flow showerheads at the City's health fairs and other public outreach efforts.

### Recycling

The City of Norwalk is committed to "going green," promoting public awareness on the importance of recycling/conservation and offering programs for its residents. All of the City's recycling programs are funded either by grants, partnerships, and/or forfeiture funds. Below is a summary of the various recycling programs and outreach efforts that took place within the 2012 calendar year within the City.

Used Oil Block Grants/Oil Payment Program – This program is funded by a State Block Grant. In the 2012 calendar year, the funds were used to fund year-round residential curbside pickup as well as filter exchange events, in which residents take their used oil and oil filters at a specified oil collection center for a new filter. Promotional items such as oil containers, filters and cleaning rags were distributed during these events. We also promoted awareness by setting up an informational booth at City-hosted events

such as the Summer Concert series. In addition, the City partnered with the school districts where students received storm water prevention and used oil recycling presentations and were asked to submit drawings with a similar theme. Winning artwork entries were used as part of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that aired on the City's cable channel. In addition, City outreach at the local high schools include setting up an informational booth at the high school Earth Day event, and providing information to high school students in Autoshop classes on the importance of used oil recycling.

Energy Efficiency Conservation outreach – During the 2012 calendar year, the City had partnered with Los Angeles County to promote the "Energy Upgrade California" program by co-sponsoring a workshop so that residents can receive information about home energy efficiency projects to help lower utility bills. In addition, informational booths were set up during the City's Summer Concerts to promote this program and energy conservation.

Beverage Container Grants – This program is also funded by a State Block Grant. The funds were used to partially subsidize a quarterly recycling publication called "The One Person's Trash..." and to produce flyers and information material for public distribution. In addition, grant funds were used to purchase recycled-content benches and tables for public use throughout City facilities; this allows patrons to visualize the results of their recycling efforts.

City E-waste and Shredding Events – The City organized electronic waste collection and document shredding events three times last year in January, April and October. Each event was held on a Saturday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. These events were extremely successful, with an average of 550 vehicles participating. These events are funded with e-waste collection funds provided by the e-waste contractor, who receives this funding from the State of California SB 20 funds.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling – In response to AB 939 (mandatory recycling requirement) to divert at least 50% of discarded materials from landfills, the City requires property owners/contractors to submit a Waste Management Plan (WMP) along with a fully refundable deposit for construction and demolition projects. Those that fail to comply with submitting disposal and recycling receipts will have their deposits forfeited. The forfeiture funds are then used to fund City recycling efforts. During the latter part of 2012, the City introduced the use of an online system in which contractors and builder-owners have the option to submit their Waste Management Plan and receipts electronically, thereby encouraging the reduction of their carbon footprint.

Public Education – The City contracts with Eco Partners to prepare and print "One Person's Trash," a quarterly publication exclusively devoted to recycling and conservation topics. The publication is funded by 3 sources: Used Oil Block Grant funding, Beverage Container Block Grant funding, and subsidies from our two (2) franchised haulers.



**Mandatory Commercial Recycling** – Given the passage of AB 341 in 2012, the City has partnered with the City's authorized haulers to disseminate information about the mandatory commercial recycling requirement for businesses and apartment complexes with 5 or more units. Information was disseminated through direct mailings as well as in City publications. The City is already in compliance with AB 341, since waste collected from businesses and apartment complexes in Norwalk go through a sorting process where recyclables are removed from the waste stream. However, the City encourages businesses and apartment complexes to look into additional recycling options when feasible.

In addition, the City accommodates elementary schools that request City Hall tours, which incorporated a recycling/conservation education component into the tour. The students were educated on the importance of recycling and were given recycled content items to show how items can be re-used.

**Battery Recycling Program** – The City offers the convenience for residents to properly dispose of household batteries. Containers are placed throughout our public facilities (City Hall, Arts and Sports Complex, Senior Center and Social Services Center) and are accessible to residents during regular operating hours. Disposal fees are paid for by the City's Construction and Demolition (C&D) forfeiture fund.

**SHARPS Disposal Program** – The City also offers the SHARPS program in which residents can properly dispose home-generated sharps (needles, syringes and lancets). This program was established through a joint partnership with Coast Plaza Doctors Hospital and the JWCH Regional Health Clinic. Later, the City partnered with Los Angeles County to distribute free sharps disposal containers to residents. Once these containers are full, residents can take them to participating locations free of charge. Additionally, the Norwalk Sheriff's Department has drop-off containers set up outside the Norwalk Sheriff's Station. Residents have been able to anonymously drop off sharps, expired pharmaceuticals, and other drugs at no cost.

### **Open Space Element**

The City's Open Space Element is primarily dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the City's remaining open space. These areas are generally located within public parks, schools, and developed greenbelts. Currently, the City's Recreation and Park Services Department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 129 acres of park grounds, sixteen (16) baseball diamonds, the Aquatic Pavilion and the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

The Recreation and Park Services Department provides the residents of Norwalk an opportunity to create, play, and educate themselves through a variety of programs, activities, and events. Service programs include community services, youth and adult services, center and park activities, and citywide special events. Community services include extensive special interest classes and workshops, recreation for the physically challenged, and a vast array of community information and resource assistance. The youth and adult services are provided through excursions, sports and aquatics

programs, athletic leagues, day camps, holiday events, and a variety of special activities.

The City has continued to maintain and enhance its parks and community facilities. The design or construction was completed for the following Capital Improvements Projects in 2012:

- Completed the construction of a 1,000 square foot recreation center at Vista Verde Park;
- Completed design work for repairs to be done to the skylights at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex; and
- Completed design work to reroof the multi-purpose room at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex.

### **Noise Element**

The Noise Element of the General Plan is dedicated to protecting the community from excessive noise. The City recognizes that there are two (2) major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. Because the City is located along several major transportation corridors (e.g., three freeways, three railroad lines, and several major arterial streets serving regional traffic), the City has constructed screen walls along Imperial Highway between Hoxie Avenue and west of Studebaker Road. Additional screen walls have been constructed along the western and southern property lines of the Norwalk Transportation Center to mitigate the impact of any excessive noise created by mobile noise sources (i.e., cars, trucks and motorcycles etc.).

With respect to stationary noise sources, they are generally associated with industrial and commercial activities, construction work, and human activity. Mitigation of these noise sources typically involve limiting business hours, restricting commercial and industrial business operations to enclosed buildings, and/or considering land use compatibility when determining an acceptable limit for noise exposure for various land uses. A variety of these options continue to be implemented for all new developments in the City as a means of mitigating adverse noise impacts.

### **Safety Element**

The Safety Element addresses both natural and man-made hazards that may result in the loss of life and/or damage of property. The City strives to ensure the safety of Norwalk residents through emergency preparedness efforts and programs administered through the Public Safety Department.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

In an effort to minimize such loss/damage due to seismic activity, flood, fire, and man-made hazards, the City has created an Emergency Preparedness Section in the Safety Element to prepare and develop emergency plans, drills, training and communication/coordination with intergovernmental agencies.

In 2004, the City of Norwalk adopted a National Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP). This disaster plan integrates community resources into municipal disaster management,

including a list of local resources such as personnel, equipment, material, specialized medical and other training and auxiliary communications/L.A. County Disaster Communications Services. The city is currently updating the NHMP in order to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements.

In conformance with the NHMP, the City of Norwalk has continued to perform annual mock disaster drills and conduct bi-monthly training regarding emergency response that will help establish and maintain an on-going state of readiness within the City organization.

The City participates in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program which is a national program that educates citizens in emergency preparedness at the local level through cities, fire departments, police departments, hospitals and other community facilities. Norwalk is a member of the Area E Regional CERT program which consists of twenty-five (25) member cities. This program is the only known regional pool of volunteer mutual aid emergency assistance in which volunteers provide disaster response for jurisdictions affected by a major emergency or disaster.

Through the CERT program, both Norwalk personnel and volunteer community members are educated about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact Norwalk and the surrounding areas. Free monthly and quarterly training is provided to assist members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. To be a CERT member, individuals must attend 20 hours of training annually. Advanced CERT members participate in 50 additional hours of training annually.

During the 2012 calendar year, the City continued to take a lead role in organizing training opportunities for CERT members through both volunteer and paid instructors and by supplying equipment needed for training sessions and as part of the certification process. Cross training is also available to CERT members to enable them to learn about emergency response in different settings, such as responding to disasters in both urban and wilderness environments.

#### Public Safety Department Programs

During the 2012 calendar year, the Public Safety Department has also continued to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to enhance community safety through crime prevention. Some of the existing law enforcement programs that have promoted public safety in Norwalk include:

- Norwalk Enforcement Team (NET),
- Junior Park Ranger Program,
- Community Safety Partnership Team,
- Business Watch and Neighborhood Watch Programs,
- Public Safety Cadets,
- Nuisance Abatement,
- Norwalk Apartment Partnership Association,

- Parking Enforcement on Private Property (PEPP),
- Graffiti Abatement Team,
- Norwalk Park Patrol and Security,
- AMC/Civic Center and Transportation Center Security,
- Juvenile Intervention,
- Behavior Modification Program,
- Curfew Enforcement Program,
- Safe Housing and Property Enhancement Program (S.H.A.P.E),
- Public Safety Volunteer Program,
- Parental Responsibility Ordinance

Recommendations are often made by the Public Safety Commission concerning various Public Safety Department programs, such as Business Watch and Neighborhood Watch Program and Parking Enforcement on Private Property (PEPP), among other programs. In addition, the City continues to participate in a multi-agency crime task force that maintains collaborative partnerships between various law enforcement agencies, courts, parole officers, the District Attorney's office and local school districts.

### **Community Design Element**

Although the Community Design Element does not prescribe a set of particular design standards, it does offer guiding principles that promote quality design. The following is a discussion how the goals and objectives of the Community Design Element are achieved in new developments and through the Arts in Public Places Program:

### **Development Review and Approval**

Prior to the construction of any new or remodeled development in the City, proposed projects must go through a development review process in which the Community Development Department works with developers and property owners to ensure compliance with the City's zoning requirements as well as aesthetic considerations such as architectural style, scale, massing and building orientation. These are important design features associated with any new or remodeled development, particularly, when a project design may impact the surrounding physical environment.

The Planning Commission is the approving body for all projects that require discretionary approval and are responsible for ensuring that projects are:

- Compatible with other developments in the area and will have a positive effect on the appearance of the surrounding neighborhood;
- Consistent with the General Plan;
- Will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare or adversely affect property values or the present or future development of surrounding areas; and
- Compliant with the regulations contained within the Norwalk Municipal Code.

The City takes into account all design considerations during the development review process and promote and obtain aesthetically attractive, quality developments throughout the City. In 2012, the Planning Commission continued to hold developers

and builders to high architectural standards that enhanced the aesthetics of newly constructed and remodeled buildings. Additionally, the City strives to maintain that level of high architectural standards through its own projects.

#### Arts in Public Places Program

Additionally, efforts have also been made to beautify the City by way of the Art in Public Places Program. A fee is assessed on developers constructing commercial developments within the City. Developers can either pay an in-lieu contribution to the City's Art in Public Places Program or incorporate artwork into their development, which must be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

During the 2012 calendar year, funding from the Art in Public Places program paid for a hand painted mural depicting silhouettes of children and pets with park signage at Vista Verde Park. The mural was painted on a pre-existing concrete block berm encompassing the Park's perimeter. The park was undergoing renovations and improvements and the park was further enhanced with public art.

Additionally, the City reviewed several possible site locations and concepts for future art placement in 2012. The City identified Glazier Park as the next art project location, given its high visibility by both pedestrians and vehicles. Given its proximity to Glazier Elementary School, the artwork will include elements of local Norwalk history, as well as other educational and interactive elements which will enhance both the City and park. An artist has already been selected; the project is expected to be completed in 2013.

#### Educational and Cultural Resources Element

The purpose of the Educational and Cultural Resources element is to maintain and enhance the quality of education within the community and provide a sense of community identity through the preservation and expansion of the City's cultural facilities, programs, and services.

##### Educational Resources

At present, Norwalk's educational resources include a Community College, an adult school, and four (4) public school districts that serve twenty-nine (29) schools ranging from elementary through high school level. The City's cultural resources include two (2) public libraries (the Norwalk Regional Library and the Alondra Library), and the Cultural Arts Center, which is located at the Arts and Sports Complex. In addition, there are eleven (11) parks throughout the City, which are sources of educational and cultural activities for Norwalk residents.

The City has continued to enhance and develop the City's educational and cultural resources through diligent maintenance of City facilities and continued community programs at local parks and community centers, which are organized and managed by the City's Recreation and Park Services Department.

##### Historic Resources

There are also several historic resources within the community such as the Sproul Museum, the Paddison Ranch Buildings, the Darius David Johnston House, and the

Front Street Buildings that celebrate the City's historic past during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Norwalk has continued to promote and support its educational and cultural resources through continued community involvement and public awareness activities.

### **Utility Infrastructure Element**

The City's new Utility Infrastructure Element is intended to ensure that adequate utility levels (e.g., water, sewer, storm drains, natural gas, electricity, etc.) are provided within the City to meet Norwalk's current and future needs. During the past year, the City has continued to maintain all existing utility infrastructure and enhance its functional longevity to maximum performance.

The City has taken measures to ensure that the utility infrastructure is working efficiently and effectively. In the 2011, a special study was conducted analyze the City's sewer system to determine whether it is working efficiently and whether future repairs are necessary.

In the 2012 calendar year, the City worked on several Capital Improvement Projects that will improve the community's infrastructure, including:

- Continued work on the installation of underground utilities on Pioneer Boulevard between Alondra Boulevard and 166<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Completed construction to upgrade existing water well at Norwalk Park, in which new pumps and pipes were installed to connect the water supply to a water distribution center;
- Continued to work on the design of an additional water well site which is to be located at Hermosillo Park; and
- Began design work to replace the storm drain at Norwalk Toyota.

These improvements are necessary to ensure that current and future Norwalk residents are provided with adequate utility services.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2012 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report is the tenth annual report on the implementation status of the Norwalk General Plan. To date, staff believes the City has continued to faithfully implement the City's 1996 General Plan as the actions, plans, programs and projects documented in this report represent the City's commitment to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the ten (10) elements of the Norwalk General Plan.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Annual Element Progress Report: Housing Element Implementation Tables.

# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## Housing Element Implementation

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

Jurisdiction City of Norwalk  
Reporting Period 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Table A

### Annual Building Activity Report Summary - New Construction Very Low-, Low-, and Mixed-Income Multifamily Projects

Housing Development Information										
1	2	3	4			5	5a	6		8
Project Identifier (may be API No., project name or address)	Unit Category	Tenure R=Renter O=Owner	Affordability by Household Incomes			Total Units per Project	Est. # Infill Units*	Housing with Financial Assistance and/or Deed Restrictions		Housing without Financial Assistance or Deed Restrictions
			Very Low- Income	Low- Income	Moderate- Income			Assistance Programs for Each Development	Deed Restricted Units	
10695 Hayford St. Norwalk, CA 90650	SF	O			1	1	1			Note below the number of units determined to be affordable without financial or deed restrictions and attach an explanation how the jurisdiction determined the units were affordable. Refer to instructions
14327 Pontlavoy Ave. Norwalk, CA 90650	SF	O			1	1	1			
15533 Dumont Ave. Norwalk, CA 90650	SF	O			1	1	1			
11969 Sproul St. Norwalk, CA 90650	SF	O			1	1	1			
(9) Total of Moderate and Above Moderate from Table A3			0			0	0			
(10) Total by income Table A/A3			4			4	4			
(11) Total Extremely Low-Income Units*										

\* Note: These fields are voluntary

# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## Housing Element Implementation

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

Jurisdiction City of Norwalk  
Reporting Period 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Table A2  
Annual Building Activity Report Summary - Units Rehabilitated, Preserved and Acquired pursuant to GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)

Please note: Units may only be credited to the table below when a jurisdiction has included a program it is housing element to rehabilitate, preserve or acquire units to accommodate a portion of its RHNA which meet the specific criteria as outlined in GC Section 65583.1(c)(1)

Activity Type	Affordability by Household Incomes				(4) The Description should adequately document how each unit complies with subsection (c) (7) of Government Code Section 65583.1
	Extremely Low-Income*	Very Low-Income	Low-Income	TOTAL UNITS	
(1) Rehabilitation Activity				0	Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds were used to acquire and rehabilitate single-family residences at: 11836 162nd Street, 16014 Clarkdale Avenue, and 11865 Chasterton Street. This satisfies Program Category #2 of the Housing Element.
(2) Preservation of Units At-Risk				0	
(3) Acquisition of Units				0	
(5) Total Units by Income	0	0	0	0	

\* Note: This field is voluntary

Table A3  
Annual building Activity Report Summary for Above Moderate-Income Units  
(not including those units reported on Table A)

	1. Single Family	2. 2 - 4 Units	3. 5+ Units	4. Second Unit	5. Mobile Homes	6. Total	7. Number of infill units*
No. of Units Permitted for Moderate						0	
No. of Units Permitted for Above Moderate						0	

\* Note: This field is voluntary



# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## Housing Element Implementation

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

Jurisdiction City of Norwalk

Reporting Period 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Table B

### Regional Housing Needs Allocation Progress

#### Permitted Units Issued by Affordability

Enter Calendar Year starting with the first year of the RHNA allocation period. See Example.		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total Units to Date (all years)	Total Remaining RHNA by Income Level
Income Level	RHNA Allocation by Income Level											
Very Low	Deed											75
	Restricted Non-deed restricted											
Low	Deed											46
	Restricted Non-deed restricted											
Moderate	Deed											50
	Restricted Non-deed restricted											
Above Moderate	Deed											76
	Restricted Non-deed restricted											
Total RHNA by COG. Enter allocation number:		23	9	6	5	0	3	4			50	
Total Units		23	9	6	5	0	3	4			50	247
Remaining Need for RHNA Period												

Note: units serving extremely low-income households are included in the very low-income permitted units totals.

# ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

## *Housing Element Implementation*

(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	City of Norwalk
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Table C

### Program Implementation Status

[illegible]

**ANNUAL ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**  
***Housing Element Implementation***  
(CCR Title 25 §6202 )

Jurisdiction	City of Norwalk
Reporting Period	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

**General Comments:**

The City is in the process of revising its Housing Element to meet current State Housing Element Laws and address the housing units which were allocated to the City for the 4th and 5th RHNA cycles. At a study session on September 12, 2012, staff provided the Planning Commission background regarding the Housing Element update and discussed optional strategies for meeting State mandated affordable housing requirements. On January 9, 2013, the Planning Commission and staff continued its discussion regarding the Housing Element update and site suitability requirements for potential sites for rezoning to meet the City's lower income housing units allocation. At that study session, the Planning Commission directed staff to provide specific site information for potential sites to be re-zoned to allow high density multi-family residential developments in the following types of categories: churches, schools, commercial, industrial and government sites.

